



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

10. — *Journal of the Reign of King George the Third, from the Year 1771 to 1783.* By HORACE WALPOLE. Now first published from the Original MSS. Edited, with Notes, by DR. DORAN. London : Richard Bentley. 1859. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. xxxvi. and 537, 639.

THESE "Last Journals of Horace Walpole," as he chose to designate them, were evidently designed for posthumous publication, like his previous *Memoirs of the Reigns of George II. and III.* It is true that they are less carefully composed than are those more elaborate works ; but they carry forward the narrative for a period of nearly twelve years, and exhibit many traces of the terse and epigrammatic style of which Walpole was so consummate a master. At first, indeed, he does not appear to have written with a view to publication ; but subsequently he changed his purpose, and in a significant passage under date of February 27, 1782, he says that one object in continuing his *Journal* was "to aid future historians." The volumes thus composed embody a fund of curious and interesting facts ; and the American reader, in particular, will find in them much that is new and suggestive. They cover the whole period of the American war, — the last entry recording the arrival in England of the definitive treaties of peace, which put an end to the long struggle, and recognized the independence of the Colonies. The references to American affairs in both volumes are numerous and interesting, and show even more clearly than do his *Letters* how cordially Walpole abhorred the ministerial policy in regard to America. He regarded this policy as unnatural, and fraught with peril to Great Britain, and he repeatedly recorded his detestation of it. Upon domestic politics he also throws new light ; and there is scarcely a subject which then agitated the public mind in England, about which he does not have something interesting to record. His facilities for obtaining accurate information were certainly not as good at this period as they were previously to his withdrawal from public life ; but a man of his untiring activity and gossiping habits could not fail to pick up much curious matter floating loosely in the current of society. Occasionally we meet with some blunder or misstatement which is clearly owing to imperfect information ; but on the whole his statements of facts will bear a close scrutiny. Still, in reading Walpole's writings, one must never forget that he was a man of very strong prejudices, and that frequently his facts do not warrant his conclusions. His opinions of men and things were colored by his personal biases ; and allowance must always be made for this personal element in his account of his contemporaries.

Dr. Doran has discharged his editorial labors with considerable abil-

ity, though he has neglected to furnish an Index to the volumes. He would also have increased the value of his services by adding very largely to the number of his explanatory notes.

-
11. — *The Letters of HORACE WALPOLE, Earl of Orford.* Edited by PETER CUNNINGHAM. Now first chronologically arranged. London: Richard Bentley. 1857–59. 9 vols. 8vo.

SIMULTANEOUSLY with the publication of Horace Walpole's Last Journals, we have the concluding volume of Mr. Peter Cunningham's excellent edition of his Letters. In several respects this edition is superior to those which have preceded it. For the first time the different collections of Walpole's Letters have been brought together in a series of uniform and elegant volumes, under the editorial supervision of a single person; and to the letters published by former editors Mr. Cunningham has been able to add a hundred and seventeen, which are now printed for the first time, and thirty-five "scattered over many printed books and papers," which had not been comprised in any previous collection. He has also given the prefaces and notes of preceding editors, properly credited to them, a valuable body of additional notes from his own pen, a copious Index, nine views of Strawberry Hill, and more than forty portraits, some of which have not been published before. In beauty of typography, in completeness, and in the fulness of editorial illustrations, these volumes fully meet the requirements for a good library edition of Walpole's Letters; and we gladly recognize the service which Mr. Cunningham has rendered to literature by their publication.

Whatever may be thought of Walpole's character, or of the correctness of his judgments, his letters must be regarded as an immense repertory of facts; and such is the charm of their style, that they will probably continue to be read for many years. Extending over a period of more than half a century, — from November 9, 1735, to January 15, 1797, — they comprise a series of two thousand six hundred and sixty-five letters, and give us pleasing and familiar details of many most important events, lively sketches of some of the most illustrious personages of the last century, curious pictures of social life, and numerous characteristic anecdotes. A mere trifler in an age of great men, flippant, heartless, and full of prejudices and whims, sneering at authorship, yet craving its posthumous rewards, Walpole holds an important place in English literature; and his Letters could be as little spared by this generation as could Boswell's *Life of Johnson*.